

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 478

By Lundberg

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Chancellor Flora Tydings upon being selected as one of *USA Today's* Women of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this General Assembly to acknowledge and applaud those public-spirited individuals who, through their dedication to their communities, serve as valued civic leaders and inspirations to all who know them; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Chancellor Flora Tydings, who was recently selected as one of *USA Today's* Women of the Year, a recognition of women who have made a significant impact in their communities and across the country; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Flora Tydings was unanimously voted to serve as Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents in 2016, thereby becoming the first woman in Tennessee's history to lead the College System of Tennessee, which was created in 1972; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Tydings oversees thirty-seven community and technical colleges in Tennessee and ensures that nearly 120,000 students, regardless of their circumstances, have access to higher education every year and develop skillsets to carry into their careers; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Flora Tydings's national recognition is a testament to her incomparable dedication to education; under her leadership, Tennessee's community and technical college system has expanded extensively, with new degree programs and partnerships established statewide, and she has worked tirelessly to ensure that students have access to high-quality education and that the State's workforce needs are met; and

WHEREAS, after receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Georgia Southern University, Dr. Flora Tydings earned a Master of Education degree from Mercer

University and a Doctor of Education degree in Occupational Studies from the University of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, she began her career as a professional educator in the Houston County, Georgia, school system, where she served from 1976 to 1984; she subsequently owned and operated a gift shop for the next six years, then worked as a psychometrist at the Applied Psychology Center in Warner Robins, Georgia, from 1990 to 1994; and

WHEREAS, from 1994 to 1996, Chancellor Tydings was the apprenticeship director for four Georgia public school systems as well as an adjunct instructor at Middle Georgia College from 1994 to 1995; and

WHEREAS, her illustrious career in higher education leadership began in 1996 as director of curriculum and staff development at Macon Technical Institute in Georgia; she became vice president for academic affairs at Central Georgia Technical College two years later; and

WHEREAS, Chancellor Tydings served with distinction as president of Athens Technical College in Georgia from 2003 to 2015, at which time she was named president of Chattanooga State Community College; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her contributions to education, Dr. Flora Tydings has also been recognized for her dedication to the broader community; she has served on various boards and committees, advocating for initiatives that promote economic development and education, and her commitment to improving the lives of those around her is inspiring and serves as a model for future leaders; and

WHEREAS, we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Chancellor Flora Tydings for her tireless dedication to higher education and to her community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF

REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Chancellor Flora Tydings upon being selected as one of *USA Today's* Women of the Year, thank her for all she has done to improve the lives of her fellow citizens, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.